



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES



WFP Sierra Leone Country Brief September 2025

Operational Context

Poverty is widespread in Sierra Leone, with over half the population living below the poverty line of US\$2 per day. Agriculture, the main livelihood, is underdeveloped, leading to food insecurity. Limited infrastructure, high unemployment, and dependence on food imports exacerbate vulnerabilities, making the nation prone to food crises and malnutrition.

The prices of a kilogram of imported and local rice decreased by 18 percent and 3 percent respectively when compared to June 2024. Similarly, across the districts, the annual price comparison for imported rice between June 2024 and June 2025 reveals notable decreases. Results of the September 2024 bi-annual post-harvest Food Security Monitoring System (FSMS) assessment indicated that 77 percent of Sierra Leoneans were food-insecure, a slight decrease compared to the 80 percent figure in the same period in 2023. The proportion of severe food insecure households reduced by 11 percentage points from 28 percent in September 2023 to 17 percent in September 2024. WFP has been present in Sierra Leone since 1968.



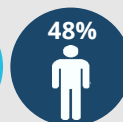
Population: **7.5 million.**

Human Development Index (2023):
Ranked 184th out of 193 countries

Income Level: **Low**

Chronic malnutrition: **26.2 percent of children aged 6 to 59 months**

In Numbers



179,812 people assisted

336 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 220,743 cash-based transfers made

US\$ 0.5 million six-month net funding requirement (Oct 2025 - Mar 2026)

Operational Updates

- WFP, in collaboration with the Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education, commenced the 2025/26 academic year aimed at enhancing educational outcomes, such as enrolment and attendance rates, and food security by targeting over 200,000 boys and girls enrolled in 1,000 government-assisted primary schools across the districts of Kenema, Kambia, Pujehun, Bonthe, and Karene, thereby supporting efforts to increase access to quality basic education for vulnerable children. Over 300 metric tons of food were delivered to these schools for term 1.
- To strengthen the operations of the four production sites dedicated to producing local and fortified complementary foods, the nutrition team organised accountability refresher trainings for the Mother Support Groups (a community-based group of mostly women for the promotion of the health and well-being of children and families). These sessions were designed to reinforce best practices and ensure the effective management and transparency of the production processes. In September, some 1,000 packages of Nyam Nyam Pap—a locally produced, fortified complementary food—were successfully distributed throughout the country. This distribution aimed to enhance nutritional outcomes, particularly for vulnerable populations, by improving access to nutritious, locally made food products.
- WFP participated in the International Peace Day celebration in Bamballa, town in Liberia, alongside the governments of Liberia and Sierra Leone, the International Organization for Migration, and other partners. The event, part of a joint project between WFP & IOM in both countries brought together border communities to promote peace and cohesion. The celebration underscored WFP's commitment to contribute to peace through climate-smart agriculture, border management, and sustainable livelihoods, aligning with Sierra Leone's national development priorities and the broader goals of the Mano River Union.

Country Strategic Plan (2020 – 2025)

Total Requirements (US\$)	Total Received (US\$)
162.1 million	106.2 million
2025 Requirements (US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (OCT 2025 - MAR 2026)
25.4 million	0.5 million

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 1: Crisis-affected populations can meet their basic food and nutrition needs during and in the aftermath of crises.

Focus area: *Crisis Response*

Activities: Provide food and nutrition assistance to crisis-affected households and support their recovery needs.

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 2: Primary school children in targeted areas have access to adequate and nutritious food throughout the year.

Focus area: *Resilience Building*

Activities:

- Provide nutritious school feeding to primary schoolchildren and support the implementation of an integrated school feeding programme.
- Provide assistance to the Government-led national school feeding programme.

Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition

Strategic Outcome 3: Nutritionally vulnerable populations in targeted districts – including children, pregnant and lactating women and girls and adolescents – have improved nutritional status in line with national targets by 2025.

Focus area: *Root Causes*

Activities: Provide comprehensive malnutrition prevention support, including complementary food and nutrition messaging, while strengthening the capacity of peripheral health units and staff on health and nutrition.

Strategic Result 3: Smallholders have improved food security and nutrition

Strategic Outcome 4: Smallholder farmers and communities in targeted areas have resilient livelihoods that better meet their food security and nutrition needs by 2030.

Focus area: *Resilience Building*

Activities: Provide integrated resilience-building support to smallholder farmers, including farmers' organizations and women's groups.

Strategic Result 5: Countries have strengthened capacity to implement the SDGs

Strategic Outcome 5: National and subnational institutions have strengthened capacities to manage food security and nutrition programmes by 2024.

Focus area: *Resilience Building*

Activities: Provide integrated resilience-building support to smallholder farmers, including farmers' organisations and women's groups.

Partnership

WFP, in partnership with the Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education, organised a training of trainers' workshop for the school feeding programme partners. These partners will in turn cascade training to school administrators, school management committee members, cooks, and farmer-based organisations on topics including food handling, storage, and preparation. The purpose of this initiative was to ensure the safe and efficient management of the school feeding programme, thereby improving food quality and safety for school pupils.

Research, Assessments and Monitoring (RAM)

WFP successfully carried out monitoring activities at 50 sites across four districts. The Asset Creation and Livelihood activities were the primary focus as the new school year had just begun.

Voices from the Field



The introduction of Satake rice mills by WFP has transformed farming in Kambia, inspiring similar initiatives in Tonkolili, Kenema, and Pujehun. Previously, farmers like Isata Feika Sesay struggled with post-harvest losses, but now, with access to modern processing facilities, they efficiently process their rice and achieve better prices. Isata, chairlady of the Takeleneh farmers' association, takes pride in knowing her rice contributes to the school feeding programme, feeding primary school children. The successful Kambia model's replication across other districts is bringing hope and practical benefits to thousands more smallholder farmers.

Donors

Donors to WFP Sierra Leone Country Strategic Plan (CSP) 2020–2025 include China, the European Union, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Japan, OPEC Fund, Republic of Korea, Russia, Sierra Leone, the United States of America, World Bank as well as multilateral contributors, private donors, and the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund.